

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A handheld body massager comprising:
2 a transverse housing having a central axis and a massage region;
3 a massage unit oriented within the housing for imparting a massage
4 effect from the massage region;
5 a pair of elongate arms pivotally connected to opposed transverse
6 ends of the housing, such that the massage region is oriented therebetween, each
7 arm having a handle to be grasped by a user and being pivotal generally toward and
8 away from each other;
9 whereby the user may grasp each handle to urge the massage region
10 against a surface of the user's body.
- 1 2. The massager of claim 1, wherein each arm pivots about an
2 axis, and the pair of pivotal axes are generally parallel with each other and
3 orthogonal to the housing central axis.
- 1 3. The massager of claim 1, wherein each arm pivots about an
2 axis, and the pair of pivotal axes are generally parallel with each other and are lying
3 in a plane that is generally parallel with the massage region.
- 1 4. The massager of claim 1, wherein the massage unit is further
2 defined as a percussive massage unit comprising:
3 a motor transversely mounted within the housing, the motor having
4 a rotary output shaft;
5 a connecting rod having a first end rotatably connected to the output
6 shaft at a location eccentrically spaced about the axis of rotation of the output shaft
7 to cause a second end of the connecting rod to reciprocate as the output shaft rotates;
8 an elongated rocker arm having a central pivot axis, wherein the
9 rocker arm is pivotally mounted to the housing, the rocker arm being operably
10 connected to the second end of the connecting rod;
11 a pair of transversely spaced apart massage nodes, which at least
12 partially project from the housing through a pair of transversely spaced apertures

13 formed through the massage region of the housing, each massage node being
14 operably connected to the rocker arm;

15 wherein the massage nodes move toward and away from the housing
16 for providing a percussive massage effect in response to rotation of the output shaft.

1 5. The massager of claim 1, wherein the pivotal connection of
2 each arm to the housing includes a clutch for maintaining an orientation of the arm
3 relative to the housing.

1 6. The massager of claim 1, further comprising a locking
2 configuration for cooperating with the housing and at least one of the arms for
3 selectively maintaining a pivotal orientation of the arm relative to the housing.

1 7. The massager of claim 1, wherein one of the arms includes
2 a power switch operating in communication with the massage unit for regulating
3 power to the massage unit.

1 8. The massager of claim 1, wherein each handle has a first grip
2 portion and a second grip portion for permitting a user to select a desired grip
3 orientation.

1 9. The massager of claim 8, wherein the first grip portion of
2 each handle is generally orthogonal to the corresponding second grip portion.

1 10. The massager of claim 8, wherein the first grip portion of
2 each handle is generally coaxial with the corresponding elongate arm.

1 11. The massager of claim 8, wherein the second grip portion of
2 each handle is not parallel with the housing central axis.

1 12. The massager of claim 8, wherein the first grip portion of
2 each handle is generally coaxial with the corresponding elongate arm, and generally
3 orthogonal to the corresponding second grip portion, so that the user may grasp the

4 first grip portion of each handle to pull the massage region against a surface of the
5 user's body, and the user may grasp the second grip portion of each handle to push
6 the massage region against a surface of the user's body.

1 13. A handheld body massager comprising:
2 a generally U-shaped housing generally lying in a central plane, the
3 housing having a central portion with an inward facing massage region, and a pair
4 of elongate arms, each including a handle at a distal end of the arm; and
5 a massage unit oriented within the housing central portion for
6 imparting a massage effect to the massage region;
7 wherein each arm is connected to the housing central portion by a
8 hinge for pivotal movement about an axis that is generally orthogonal to the central
9 plane, so that a user may grasp each handle for urging the massage region against
10 a surface of the user's body.

1 14. The massager of claim 13, wherein the massage region is
2 generally orthogonal to the central plane.

1 15. The massager of claim 13, wherein the handle of each arm
2 extends upwardly out of the central plane to enable the user to urge the massage
3 region toward the user's lower back with minimal wrist flexing.

1 16. The massager of claim 13, wherein each handle is generally
2 orthogonal to the central plane.

1 17. The massager of claim 13, further comprising a pair of lock
2 members to releasably fix the arms relative to the housing for preventing rotation
3 at the pivot joint.

1 18. The massager of claim 13, further comprising controls for the
2 massager located within at least one of the handles.

1 19. The massager of claim 18, wherein the controls operate an
2 on/off feature and a variable speed control.